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ABSTRACT

The writings of Nila Banton Smith, a lifelong teacher, administrator, and specialist in reading instruction, whose publications spanned the years from 1922 to her death in 1976, are listed. The 152 entries are divided into three types: (1) professional publications, designed to improve the profession of teaching reading; (2) instructional materials; and (3) journal/book articles. A chronology of her life is included. (RS)

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1889-1976
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Introduction

Although Nila Banton Smith's publishing career began comparatively late in life, her productivity continued for more than fifty years. Her writings encompassed virtually every aspect of reading. This considerable body of work may be subdivided arbitrarily into major publications designed to improve the profession of teaching reading, here termed Professional Publications; Instructional Materials; and more timely, topical writings, here listed as Journal/Book Articles.

American Reading Instruction was the major achievement of her career. However, for sheer volume, her instructional publications dominate her work. From 1922 until 1976, the span of her professional writing career, Smith regularly published in all the major educational journals.

A lifelong teacher and administrator, Nila Banton Smith never lost touch with the classroom, the student, or the teacher. Everything she wrote was preeminently practical. She was most confident and authoritative when discussing classroom problems, particularly when related to basal reading instruction.

Critical evaluation of her writing remains to be done. This bibliography might serve as a source and inspiration for continuing research.

BLC



Nila Banton Smith

Chronology

Nila Banton Smith was born in Altoona, Michigan, on October 10, 1889, the only child of George Addison and Ella Banton Smith.

Graduated from Carson City High School	1908
Completed Mount Pleasant Normal School (Central Michigan University)	1911
Completed life certification program, Ypsilanti Normal School (Eastern Michigan University)	1913
Teacher, Central Lake and Ypsilanti, Michigan	1911-1919
Teacher, Supervisor of Reading, Supervisor of Research, Detroit Public Schools "Critic Teacher," Detroit Teachers College (Wayne State University)	1919-1926
Ph.B., Phi Beta Kappa, University of Chicago	1926
Fulltime graduate student, Columbia University	1927-1931
Master's, Columbia University	1929
Greensboro (North Carolina) College, Chair of Education	1931-1933
Doctorate, Columbia University; Dissertation titled <i>An Historical Analysis of American Reading Instruction</i>	1934
Whittier College (California), Dean of Education Published <i>American Reading Instruction</i> , 1934 Leave of absence, first semester, 1936-1937	1933-1937
Indiana University (Bloomington), Associate Professor of Education	1937-1939
University of Southern California, Professor of Education	1939-1947

New York City, writing sabbatical	1947-1948
New York University, Professor of Education, Director of Reading Institute	1949-1963
President, International Council for the Improvement of Reading Instruction (ICIRI)	1949-1950
President, International Reading Association	1963-1964
IRA Citation of Merit	1964
Glassboro (New Jersey) State College, Distinguished Professor	1963-1968
San Fernando Valley (California) State College, Distinguished Service Professor	1968-1969
University of Southern California, Distinguished Professor	1969-1976

Nila Banton Smith died in Los Angeles on December 13, 1976.

Professional Publications

An Historical Analysis of American Reading Instruction. Doctoral thesis, Columbia University, 1934. New York: Silver Burdett, 1934.

American Reading Instruction: Its Development and Its Significance in Gaining a Perspective on Current Practices in Reading. New York: Silver Burdett, 1934.

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Reading Activities in the Primary Grades, with Grace Storm. Boston: Ginn, 1930.

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- "Early Language Development: Foundation of Reading." *Elementary English*, 52, March 1975, 399-402.
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Note: There is no assurance that this listing of Dr. Smith's writings is complete; undoubtedly some publications, including reprints, have escaped our investigation.